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CLARENCE SUMNER PAINE.

1867–1916.

The Mississippi Valley Historical Association suffered a great loss on June 14, 1916, in the death of Mr. Clarence S. Paine, the secretary-treasurer of the association.

Mr. Paine was born in Eden Prairie Township, Minnesota, on June 11, 1867. The years of his early manhood were spent in the lumber camps and on the farms of that state. Later his interests turned to business pursuits, in preparation for which he attended school for a time in Minneapolis and also completed a business college course. Locating at Boone, Iowa, he established a business college. It was during the period of his residence in Iowa that his interest in state and local history was aroused. In 1897 he removed to Nebraska and ten years later was elected secretary of the Nebraska State Historical Society. From that time until the day of his death he was at the center of all the movements connected in any way with the preservation of the history of Nebraska.

Mr. Paine's enthusiasm in the cause of history, however, extended beyond the boundaries of the state of his adoption. It was he who in 1907 issued the call for the meeting at Lincoln which finally resulted in the formation of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association. Not only did his infectious confidence of success lead to the organization of the association, but throughout the nine years of its existence his never-failing optimism and his tireless, unselfish labors as secretary-treasurer have been the most potent factors in promoting its growth and placing it upon a firm foundation.

Mr. Paine's presence, his spirit of intense loyalty, and his annual reports, so full of encouragement, will be sorely missed at the meetings of the association. He will always be held in grateful remembrance by those who have at heart the cause of history in the Mississippi Valley.